THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 4th Assessment Report published in 2007 has reported that future climate change is expected to have considerable impacts on natural resource system. Changes in the natural environment can affect human sustenance and livelihoods. This in turn, can lead to instability often followed by displacement of people and changes in occupancy and migration patterns. However, there is no conclusive study on climate change impact on migration of people.

Threats of global warming

2434. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the climate change committee of UN has expressed concern that if global warming is not checked in time, nearly 30 per cent species on the earth would become extinct;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether millions of people are likely to face water crisis because of ground water and the melting of Himalayan glacier on the large scale would lead to heavy destruction in the Gangetic plain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 4th Assessment Report published in 2007 has reported that approximately 20-30% of plant and animal species assessed so far are likely to be at increasingly high risk of extinction as global mean temperatures exceed a warming of 2-3 degree C above pre-industrial levels.

(c) and (d) Scientific studies reveal that ample reserve of ground water is available in the areas underlain by Indo-Gangetic alluvial plains in the country. In the event of global warming the rainfall pattern is projected to change which, in turn, will affect the availability of ground water in space and time, in general. The threat of global warming *inter alia* includes changes in river hydrology, increases debris production and siltation of river in down stream region.

Adverse effects of air conditioners

†2435. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got any estimate of the total number of air conditioners in use in the country;

(b) the extent to which heat generated from these machines affects the atmosphere;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is aware that resentment among common people, who are out of the ambit of air conditioning system, is increasing gradually; and

(d) if so, how Government proposes to.control this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per Refrigeration Air-conditioning Manufacturers Association (RAMA), the total population of room air conditioners is estimated to be approximately 10 million.

(b) The fossil fuel burnt, if any, to produce electricity for running the air conditioners only play an indirect role in affecting the atmosphere. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has initiated the Standards and Labeling Programme in order to enhance energy efficiency of the air conditioners.

(c) and (d) India is subject to large degree of climate variability. As per studies conducted by India Meteorological Department (MD) annual mean temperature for the country as a whole has risen by 0.52°C over the period. India has released the National Action Plan on Climate Change to evolve a strategy that aims at adapting to climate change and enhancing the ecological sustainability of our development path.

Coal mining in reserved forests

2436.SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating a new formula for coal mining in reserved forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such action would adversely affect the forest cover; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such action and the steps to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The coal is extracted form the Coal Bearing Areas irrespective of reserve/protected forests, degraded forest or non-forest lands as per the requirement of the nation and economic viability of extraction. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for mining of coal in the forest areas under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. So far, 50,818 ha of forest land including reserve forest has been diverted for coal mining in the country. A State-wise list of such diversions is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is permitted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 after stipulating mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area.